

LinksHall

Chicago's Center for Independent Dance
and Performance Arts

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Hi-res digital images and artists bios available on request

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Links Hall scales Illinois' mountains, tours Wrigleyville's parking lots, and catches deadly flying carp as part of the 2010 Artistic Associate Festival DIRT, March 5-21, 2010

Chicago, IL – Opening Friday, March 5, 2010, Links Hall presents DIRT a three weekend festival featuring performance, dance, readings, and videos designed to investigate the multi-layered complexity of environmental issues beyond political sound bites. The DIRT festival is curated by Links Hall Artistic Associate **Deke Weaver**, a Creative Capital artist and three-time NEA regional grants recipient. On the faculty of University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Weaver has engaged artists and environmentalists from throughout Illinois to explore how we shape the land and how the land shapes us. DIRT runs March 5-21, 2010 Friday – Sunday at Links Hall, 3435 N. Sheffield Ave., Chicago, IL. 60657. Tickets are \$15 General Admission at the Door/ \$12 Online; \$10 Students at the Door/\$8 Online; Weekend Pass \$20 General Admission; \$15 Students; and DIRT Cheap Festival Pass \$25. For more information call 773.281.0824, or purchase online at www.LinksHall.org. DIRT is sponsored by Openlands - a leader in regional land and water conservation initiatives. DIRT is also supported by a University of Illinois' College of Fine and Applied Arts Creative Research Award.

“The Great Depression and the Dust Bowl feel uncomfortably close,” says curator Deke Weaver. “We’ve got a precarious petrochemical-driven economy and skyrocketing cancer rates. Melting icecaps. A present day mass extinction of species that some can only compare to the catastrophic dinosaur die-off of 65 million years ago. We are living in dire times. What’s art got to do with it? Subtle, intertwined and passionate, the art being performed in DIRT starts to reveal the deep connections between economics, imagination, our bodies and the natural world. The work is hilarious. It's uncomfortable. It's dark. It's hopeful. It's desperate. It's ironic. It's absolutely sincere. I'd like the festival to raise the personal stakes for everybody in the Links Hall tent.”

Links Halls' Artistic Associate program annually selects three proposals from curators for a three week festival through a competitive process. The curators are given a \$3,000 budget and free rein to engage local, national and international artists to explore their festival's theme.

~FESTIVAL PROGRAM FOLLOWS~

About the Curator



[DEKE WEAVER](#) (curator) is a writer-performer and media artist. Experimental theater, film/video, dance, and solo performance venues have presented Weaver's interdisciplinary performances and videos in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Russia, Europe and the United States. A resident at Yaddo, HERE, a two-time fellow at Ucross, a four-time fellow at the MacDowell Colony, a three-time recipient of NEA regional film/video grants and a 2009 Creative Capital grantee, his work, described as "explosive" (San Francisco Weekly) and "brilliant" (The Village Voice) has "handcuffed a secure storytelling knack to a performance style that pushes the energy envelope toward hyperventilating madness" (Sidewalk.com). He also contributes film and video to dance and theater works in the U.S. and abroad. From 1999-2005 he was the Senior Animator for the Showtime Networks' Broadcast Design Group. He is currently an assistant professor in the School of Art and Design at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

[DIRT](#)

Three weekends of performance, dance, readings and videos about how we shape the land and how the land shapes us

Curated by Links Hall Artistic Associate Deke Weaver

Sponsored by [Openlands](#)

DIRT includes six performance programs, two different programs each weekend, taking place over the first three weeks in March. A series of post-show talk backs with prominent members of the environmental community will give the audience and artists the chance to expand the conversation beyond the studio. In addition, there will be workshops led by dancer/choreographer Jennifer Monson and Temporary Travel Office's Ryan Griffis.

As complementary programming during DIRT's final weekend, Jelleye's Shu Shubat and Oliver Seay together with shadow puppet artist Mike Oleon will welcome spring with a series of dawn concerts (6am- 7:30am) before, during and after the Vernal Equinox (March 19-21, 2010).

Weekend One – March 5 – 7, 2010

Public Phenomena

Friday /**March 5**/ 8pm *

*talk back with Daniel Tucker followed by opening night reception

featuring [Temporary Services](#)

Temporary Services' premieres a photo performance inspired by its 2008 book *Public Phenomena* – the result of over ten years of photographic documentation and research on the variety of modifications and inventions people make in public – called "absolutely fascinating and incredibly life affirming" by the Wooster Collective.

~MORE DETAILS FOLLOW~

The Mountains of Illinois

(please note early start time on Saturday 3/6)

Saturday/ **March 6/ 7:30pm *** & Sunday / **March 7/ 7pm**

*talk back with Daniel Tucker following Saturday's performance

featuring [Bonnie Fortune](#), [Alan & Michael Fleming](#), [Kevin Hamilton](#), [Audrey Petty](#),
and [Temporary Travel Office](#).

In an evening of literal and figurative journeys of shifting landscapes, performances and readings, audiences will embark on a parking lot tour of Wrigleyville with Temporary Travel Office and return to Links Hall to scale Bonnie Fortune's sound-installation *One Landscape for Another: Ghost Mountain*. Recorded at the Abbott Power Plant, the title refers to the amount of coal used per day to produce electricity. Alan and Michael Fleming's video/photo/performance work on space, presence, and the body leads to Audrey Petty's childhood summer road trips through obscure Midwestern towns and Kevin Hamilton's account of how mountains came to be identified with the divine.

Weekend Two – March 12 – 14, 2010

Water

Friday & Saturday /**March 12*** & **13**/ 8pm**

*talk back with conservationist and Openlands CEO [Gerald W. Adelman](#) following Friday's performance

**talk back with environmental ethicist Michael Scoville following Saturday's performance

featuring [Jennifer Monson](#) and [BD Collier](#)

Choreographer/performer Jennifer Monson's new Mahomet Aquifer Project draws the audience into their own understanding of their relationship to water in a multi-layered performance experience while BD Collier's darkly comic performance/lecture traces the deadly flying carp taking over Illinois waterways.

Oranges and Snowstorms

Sunday / **March 14 / 7pm**

featuring [Karin Hodgin-Jones](#), [Nadia Jassim](#), [Kyli Kleven](#), [Daniel Rudin](#), [Steve May](#) and [Ryan Thompson](#)

A family farm bisected by I-74, a Nicaraguan fortress turned municipal dump, oranges in winter – in an evening of live performances and short film screenings, five artists acknowledge and critique individual and collective complicity in unsustainable global systems and structures and the transformative power or careful and thoughtful attention to the seemingly small decisions of the everyday.

Weekend Three – March 19 – 21, 2010

Leaves of Silent Spring Grass

Friday/ **March 19 / 8pm**

featuring [Jennifer Allen](#), [Nadia Jassim](#), [Steve May](#), [Chris Peck](#), [Marissa Perel](#), [Zoe Schwartz](#), and [Ryan Thompson](#)

Sing the body electric in a series of short performances inspired by *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson and Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*. Audiences are encouraged to bring their own musical instrument.

~MORE DETAILS FOLLOW~

The Land of Plenty

Saturday/ **March 20** / 8pm & Sunday/ **March 21** / 7pm
featuring [Deke Weaver](#), [Chris Peck](#) and **Jennifer Allen**

DIRT concludes with curator Deke Weaver's video, real human beings and living sound performance that hops back and forth over the fuzzy gray line that defines kooks and saints, sentimental mumbo jumbo and deeply felt ritual, New Age cheese and the breathtaking, the haunting, the disturbingly beautiful. Sing-alongs, dancing sandhill cranes, cowboy songs, Led Zeppelin guitar solos, evil bunny prayers, the (fictional) collaboration between John Cage and Karl Marx, a re-enactment of "A Discussion of Form" juxtaposed with the "sacred geometry" of crop circles, The Land of Plenty is a meditation on the Great Plains, the natural world, and myth.

DIRT Festival Tickets & Passes

Single Tickets

\$15 / \$12 Online ; \$10 Students / \$8 Online

Weekend Pass (good for all performances in one weekend)

\$20 / \$15 Students

DIRT Cheap Festival Pass (good for all performances, all three weekends)

\$25

Vernal Equinox Dawn Concert

\$20 / \$18 Online

For tickets and more information call **773.281.0824** or visit www.LinkshHall.org.

Links Hall is located at 3435 N. Sheffield Avenue, Second Floor, Chicago, IL 60657—convenient to the BROWN, PURPLE & RED line stop at Belmont and RED line Addison stop in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood. For more information call **773.281.0824** or visit www.LinkshHall.org

Links Hall is Chicago's Center for Independent Dance and Performing Arts.

Links Hall encourages artistic innovation and public engagement by maintaining a facility and providing flexible programming for the research, development and presentation of new work in the performing arts.

Founded in 1963, **Openlands** protects the natural and open spaces of northeastern Illinois and the surrounding region to ensure cleaner air and water, protect natural habitats and wildlife, and help balance and enrich our lives. www.openlands.org

Gerald W. Adelmann, president and CEO of Openlands, first joined the staff in 1980 to coordinate a special program focused on the Des Plaines River Valley. This led to his founding of the Canal Corridor Association in 1982. Adelmann served as president until 2002 and led the effort to create the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor in 1984. The Heritage Corridor was the first federal land designation of its kind. Today there are 39 federally designated heritage areas across the United States. One of the oldest urban conservation organizations, Openlands works to protect and enhance open space within the three-state Chicago metropolitan area. In 1988, Adelmann assumed the directorship of Openlands. Under his leadership the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, 4,000 miles of greenways and trails, and many other important conservation projects have been realized. Adelmann serves on many boards and commissions and has worked on sustainable development in Yunnan, China since the early 1990s. He has lectured and advised on projects throughout the United States and abroad. He has been presented with numerous awards and, in 2007, was made an Honorary Member of the American Society of Landscape Architects.